

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS STATE 127855

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO, SWEL, EPAP, SA

SUBJECT: WHA: SAUDI PROPOSED SMOKING RESOLUTION

1. CO-SPONSORSHIP OR SUPPORT FOR THE SAUDI RESOLUTION AS WRITTEN WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS BECAUSE IT ENDORSES STRONGER ACTION TO COMBAT SMOKING THAN THE PRESENT POLICY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE PRESIDENT'S PUBLICLY STATED POSITION IS TO ADEQUATELY WARN THE PUBLIC AND LET THE DECISION TO USE TOBACCO BE AN INDIVIDUAL ONE. INCREASED TAXATION ON TOBACCO OR ANY OTHER CONSUMER ITEM IS NOT AN AIM OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. CIGARETTE ADVERTISING HAS BEEN BANNED IN THE U.S. ON TELEVISION AND RADIO BUT THE RIGHT OF THE PRINT MEDIA TO ACCEPT ADVERTISING IS PROTECTED BY THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF OUR CONSTITUTION. THERE IS DISPUTE OVER THE
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EFFECT OF TOBACCO SMOKE ON NON-SMOKERS.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO CO-SPONSOR OR AT MINIMUM SUPPORT THE SAUDI RESOLUTION, AND WE ENCOURAGE THE DELEGATION TO NEGOTIATE CHANGES IN THE TEXT TO ALTER THE THRUST TOWARD EDUCATION AND AWAY FROM REGULATORY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT GO BEYOND U.S. POLICY. THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED TEXT WOULD

MEET THAT REQUIREMENT AND USDEL MAY MAKE CHANGES IN KEEPING WITH THE CONCEPT.

(BEGIN REVISED TEXT)

RECALLING RESOLUTIONS EB.45.R9, WHA 23.32, EB 47.R42, WHA 24.48, EB 53.R31 AND WHA 29.55 CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE HEALTH HAZARDS OF TOBACCO SMOKING;

RECOGNIZING THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE SHOWING THAT TOBACCO SMOKING MAY CAUSE CHRONIC BRONCHITIS, EMPHYSEMA AND LUNG CANCER, AS WELL AS BEING A RISK FACTOR FOR MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION, CERTAIN PREGNANCY-RELATED AND NEONATAL DISORDERS, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS;

CONCERNED AT THE INCREASED USE OF CIGARETTES DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES;

NOTING THAT FEW COUNTRIES HAVE SO FAR TAKEN EFFECTIVE EDUCATIONAL MEASURES FOR INFORMING THE PUBLIC OF HARMFUL EFFECTS OF TOBACCO SMOKING;

BELIEVING THAT WHO HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROMOTING HEALTH AS ENVISAGED IN THE SIXTH GENERAL PROGRAM OF WORK COVERING THE PERIOD INCLUSIVE 1978-1983.

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1. URGES MEMBER STATES TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH EDUCATION CONCERNING SMOKING AS PART OF GENERAL HEALTH EDUCATION, THROUGH CLOSE COLLABORATION AMONG HEALTH AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DIFFERENT NEEDS OF THE VARIOUS TARGET GROUPS;

2. REQUESTS THE DIRECTOR GENERAL:

(1) TO CONTINUE TO INTENSIFY WHO'S ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH EDUCATING THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD TO THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF TOBACCO SMOKING;

(2) TO COLLABORATE WITH MEMBER STATES, AS REQUIRED, IN THE FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF THEIR OWN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON HAZARDS OF SMOKING.

(3) TO ASSIST MEMBER STATES UPON REQUEST IN DEVELOPING MEASURES FOR UTILIZING THE NEWS MEDIA IN SUCH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. (END REVISED TEXT.)

3. YOU SHOULD WORK PER THESE CHANGES OR OTHER LANGUAGE CONSISTENT WITH THE THRUST TOWARD EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC

AND REPORT RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS TO DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY.
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